

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending. The Office Action dated June 29, 2004, regarding this Application has been carefully considered. The Examiner determined that Claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner. Claims 7 and 10-12 are rejected. Claims 8, 9 and 13 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The above amendments and the following remarks are presented in a sincere attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. Claims 7, 11 and 12 have been amended in this Response. Claims 8 and 13 have been cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks for those Claims deemed not in condition for allowance.

An interview was held with the Examiner, Mr. Michael Tran, on August 20, 2004, to discuss the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and proposed amendments to Claims 7, 11 and 12. Applicants' representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended.

Claims 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 3,969,706 by Proebsting et al ("Proebsting"). Insofar as it may be applied against the Claim, these rejections are overcome.

Regarding Claim 7, Proebsting was cited as assertedly fully disclosing a method of transferring a data bit out of a given cell of an array of memory cell, as a logic value signal. Rejected independent Claim 7 as now amended more particularly recites one of the distinguishing characteristics of the present invention, namely, "passing said output signal to a latch circuit, *wherein the SA holds the logic level of the output for a predetermined time after enablement; the*

passing of the signal to a latch circuit is accomplished via a dynamic NOR, and the latch circuit is operationally a cross-coupled NAND." (Emphasis added.) Support for this Amendment can be found, among other places, in FIGURE 1 and FIGURE 3 and pages 5, line 26 to page 6, line 25 of the original Application.

Proebsting does not disclose, teach or suggest "passing said output signal to a latch circuit, wherein the SA holds the logic level of the output for a predetermined time after enablement; the passing of the signal to a latch circuit is accomplished via a dynamic NOR, and the latch circuit is operationally a cross-coupled NAND." An advantage that amended Claim 7 innovatively provides is that it allows for a multiple sense amplifier read-out path that has relatively low power consumption.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that the cited references does not disclose, teach or suggest the unique combination now recited in amended Claim 7. Applicants therefore submit that amended Claim 7 is clearly and precisely distinguishable over the cited references in a patentable sense, and is therefore allowable over these references and the remaining references of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Proebsting be withdrawn and that Claim 7 be allowed.

Claims 9 and 10 depend on and further limit Claim 7. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these Claims should also be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the dependent Claims 9 and 10 also be withdrawn.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Proebsting. Insofar as it may be applied against the Claim, this rejection is overcome. Applicants contend that the rejection of amended Claim 11 is overcome for at least some of the reasons that the rejection of Claim 7 as

amended is overcome. These reasons include Proebsting not disclosing, teaching, or suggesting *“holding the sensed value, wherein the latch type SA holds a logic level of an output for a predetermined time after enablement;”* (Emphasis added.) Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended Claim 11 is clearly and precisely distinguishable over the cited references in any combination.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that the cited reference does not disclose, teach or suggest the unique combination now recited in amended Claim 11. Applicants therefore submit that amended Claim 11 is clearly and precisely distinguishable over the cited references in a patentable sense, and is therefore allowable over these references and the remaining references of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Proebsting be withdrawn and that Claim 11 be allowed.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Proebsting. Insofar as it may be applied against the Claim, this rejection is overcome. Applicants contend that the rejection of amended Claim 12 is overcome for at least some of the reasons that the rejection of Claim 7 as amended is overcome. These reasons include Proebsting not disclosing, teaching, or suggesting *“an additional plurality of latch type SAs for sensing a like plurality of additional memory cells in individually distinct given clock cycles; and a dynamic logic circuit providing the interconnection between the plurality of SAs and the latch circuit.”* (Emphasis added.)

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that the cited reference does not disclose, teach or suggest the unique combination now recited in amended Claim 12. Applicants therefore submit that amended Claim 12 is clearly and precisely distinguishable over the cited references in a patentable sense, and is therefore allowable over these references and the remaining references of record.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Proebsting be withdrawn and that Claim 12 be allowed.


Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1-7 and 9-12.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due; however, in the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of CARR LLP.

Should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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